88. Photolytic Reactions of (o-Allylbenzyl)dicarbonyl(η^5 -cyclopentadienyl)iron

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Photolysis of (o-allylbenzyl)dicarbonyl(η^5 -cyclopentadienyl)iron (4) at 20° in CH₂Cl₂ leads to carbon-monoxide loss followed by intramolecular complexation to $[\eta^2$ -(o-allylbenzyl)]carbonyl(η^5 -cyclopentadienyl)iron (13). At 50° in C₆D₆, a photochemical rearrangement proceeds forming carbonyl (η^5 -cyclopentadienyl) $\{\eta^3$ -[3-(2-methylphenyl)allyl] $\}$ iron (17). Depending on the temperature, photolysis of 4 leads to intermolecular reactions at the benzylic or allylic position of the π complexes 13 and 17, respectively.

1. Introduction. – Recently, we had shown that photolysis of benzyliron complex 1 leads to homolytic cleavage of the Fe-C bond and generates benzyl radicals (2). Reaction in the presence of electron-poor alkenes 3 yields C-C bond formation products [1] (Scheme 1).

We have now tried to trap benzyl radicals intramolecularly by a suitably located C=C bond. Therefore, the allylbenzyl complex 4 was synthesized by treatment of the readily available iron salt 5 [2] with o-allylbenzyl chloride (6) [3]. Surprisingly, photolysis of complex 4 at 20° in pentane yielded exclusively bibenzyl derivative 7. Cyclization products 8 and 9, which are expected from intramolecular reaction of the o-allylbenzyl radical (10) [3], could not be detected. Photolysis of 4 at 67° in THF led almost quantitatively to reduction products 11 and 12 in a 1:8 ratio. In the presence of CH₃OD, D was incorporated in both allylic positions giving 11D and 12D in a 1:7 ratio.

These unexpected results led us to a more thorough investigation of the properties of the iron complex 4 under photolytic conditions.

2. Results and Discussion. – Irradiation of **4** at 20° in CH_2Cl_2 led within a few min quantitatively to the formation of π -coordinated species **13** (*Scheme 2*). The rearrangement was monitored by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy. The yield of isolated olefin complex **13** was 95%. A comparable intramolecular substitution reaction has already been reported by *Green* and *Smith* [4].

Compared to the complex **4**, the NMR data of π complex **13** show characteristic differences (*Table 1*). π Coordination of an alkene by a metal center usually leads to an upfield shift of the signals of the olefinic system, indicating increasing sp³ character of the C-atoms of the C=C bond. It is also known that the signals of the H-atoms that are oriented towards the metal center are strongly influenced. Therefore, both the upfield shift of all olefinic and benzylic H-atoms of **13** and the decreased coupling constants of H_E -C(10) and H_Z -C(10) indicate π coordination of the C=C bond. The considerable

$$\begin{array}{c} Cp \\ OC - Fe - CH_2Ph \\ CO \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} hv \\ OC \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} Cp \\ Pentane \\ 80\% \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} hv \times 20^{\circ} \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} hv \times 20^{\circ$$

Cp = Cyclopentadienyl

Scheme 2

1:7

12D

THF CH₃OD

	¹ H-NMR (C ₆ D ₆)			¹³ C-NMR (CDCl ₃)	
	4	13		4	13
$H_a-C(7)$	2.86	1.66	C(7)	0.4	1.0
$H_b-C(7)$		2.78			
$H_a-C(8)$	3.65	2.69	C(8)	37.4	34.0
$H_b-C(8)$		3.17			
H-C(9)	6.25	4.48	C(9)	138.0	37.9
H_E -C(10)	5.23 (J = 10)	3.00 (J = 8.5)	C(10)	115.5	5.5
H_{∞} -C(10)	5.26 (J = 17)	1.31 (J = 13)			

Table 1. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR Data for Iron Complexes 4 and 13 (see Scheme 2)

upfield shifts of the signals of C(9) and C(10) of ca. 100 ppm in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum are even more indicative of π -complexation.

Further irradiation of π complex 13 at 20° might cleave the Fe–C σ bond, leading to a hypothetical intermediate which could have structure 14 of a cage biradical 14 (*Scheme 3*). Recombination yields bibenzyl derivative 7 after decomplexation. Intramolecular trapping of the benzylic radical part of 14 by the olefinic bond does not occur, because the C=C bond of 14 is still coordinated. However, the benzylic radical center of 14 could be trapped by O_2 . Thus, photolysis of 4 at 20° in C_6D_6 in the presence of O_2 yielded aldehyde 15 and alcohol 16.

Irradiation of the π complex 13 at 50° in C_6D_6 caused within a few min a rearrangement to π -allyl complex 17. The structure of 17 was determined by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy (*Table 2*). The upfield shifts of H_E , H_Z , and H^1 indicate an increasing sp³ character of C(1) and C(3) of the coordinated allylic system. The value of the chemical shift of H^2 at around 5 ppm is typical of η^3 -allyl complexes [1] [5]. The coupling constants (> 10 Hz) between H^1 , H^2 , and H_Z indicate a *trans*-configuration of π -allyl complex 17. The *singlet* at 2.52 ppm is assigned to the aryl-substituted Me group of 17.

Table 2. H-NMR Data for η -Aust Complex 17 (C ₆ D ₆ , see Scheme 3)					
H-Atom	δ [ppm]	Multiplicity	<i>J</i> [Hz]		
H¹	2.19	d	10.7		
H^2	5.15	ddd	11.2, 10.7, 6.8		
H_E	2.85	dd	6.8, 1.5		
H_Z	0.88	dd	11.5, 1.5		
ArCH ₃	2.52	S			
Ср	4.13	S			
Ar	6.9–7.5	m			

Table 2. ¹H-NMR Data for η³-Allyl Complex 17 (C₆D₆; see Scheme 3)

The formation of deuterated products 11D and 12D (*Scheme 1*) in THF/CH₃OD obviously occurs *via* reaction of CH₃OD with η^3 -allyl complex 17 at both ends of the allylic system. Attack at the sterically less hindered unsubstituted allylic position yields the main product 12D. To gain deeper insight into the reaction, we photolyzed the iron complex 4 in THF in the presence of excess acrylonitrile at 67°, leading to C–C bond formation products 18 and 19 in a 6:1 ratio (*Scheme 4*). Presumably η^3 -allyl complex 17 is the intermediate which reacts with acrylonitrile at the terminal end of the allylic system.

Thermal decomposition of a THF solution of 4 in a GC injector at 200° gave no detectable amounts of organic compounds, whereas π -olefin complex 13 led at 250° to the formation of methylindene 20, allylbenzene 11, and styrene derivative 12 in a 7:2:1 ratio. Thermolysis of neat 13 gave, within experimental error, an identical product mixture. Thus, the thermal reaction of 13 results in both homolysis of the Fe–C bond and decomplexation of the olefin. Methylidene 20 could be formed *via* intramolecular radical cyclization [3] followed by β -elimination [6] and C=C bond isomerization.

3. Conclusion. – Scheme 5 illustrates the reactions of the iron complexes $4 \rightarrow 13 \rightarrow 17$. Photolysis of o-allylbenzyliron complex 4 at 20° yields π complex 13. Further irradiation at 50° leads to η^3 -allyl complex 17. Both reactions occur within a few min. The π complex 13 can be trapped by O_2 at 20° via photolysis, leading to aldehyde 15 and alcohol 16.

Photolysis of 13 at 20° gives the metal-free dimer 7. By heating the π complex 13 to 250°, cyclization product 20 is formed. The π -allyl complex 17 can also be trapped. Thus, photolysis in the presence of acrylonitrile yields products of C–C bond formation 18 and 19, and reaction with CH₃OD gives deuterated products 11D and 12D.

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Experimental Part

General. THF was freshly distilled from potassium benzophenone. Benzene was distilled from CaH₂ and stored over molecular sieves. All reactions and manipulations of organometallic reagents were carried out under Ar. The irradiation experiments were carried out with an Osram Power Star HQIT 250/D sunlamp. Chromatography utilized silica gel: C 560KV 35-70 μm, Chemische Fabrik Uetikon, or aluminium oxide: 507C neutral, Fluka, activity III. GC: Carlo Erba 6000 with flame-ionization detector coupled to a Shimadzu C-R4A integrator (conditions: 25 m OV-1701 or 25 m SE-30, 50° to 260° at 10°/min). M.p.: uncorrected. IR: Perkin Elmer 781 spectrophotometer. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: either a Varian Gemini 300 or a Varian VXR 400 (TMS as internal standard). MS: either VG 70-250 or Varian MAT 212. GC/MS: Hewlett-Packard 5790A gas chromatograph coupled to a Hewlett-Packard 5970A mass-selective detector (conditions; 25 m SE-30, 50° to 260° at 10°/min).

(2-Allylbenzyl) dicarbonyl ($η^5$ -cyclopentadienyl) iron (4). 2-Allylbenzyl chloride (6; 5.50 g, 33.0 mmol) was added dropwise at 20° to a soln. of sodium dicarbonyl($η^5$ -cyclopentadienyl)ferrate (5; 33.9 mmol) in THF (60 ml). After 2 h, the solvent was removed. The brown residue was diluted with pentane (200 ml), filtered, and purified by chromatography on aluminium oxide (pentane). The yellow band was collected. Removal of the solvent gave 5.00 g (49%) of 4 as yellow crystals. M.p. 41–42°. IR (KBr): 1985, 1920. 1 H-NMR (300 MHz; C₆D₆): 2.86 (s, FeCH₂Ar); 3.65 (br. d, J = 6.4, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 4.11 (s, C₅H₅); 5.23 (br. d, J = 10.0, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 5.26 (br. d, J = 17.0, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 6.25 (dddd, J = 17.0, 10.0, 6.4, 6.4, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 7.08–7.53 (m, Ar). 13 C-NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl₃): 0.4 (FeCH₂Ar); 37.4 (ArCH₂CH=CH₂); 85.5 (C₅H₅); 115.5 (ArCH₂CH=CH₂); 123.7 (C(5)); 126.3 (C(4)); 128.9 (C(6)); 129.4 (C(3)); 135.3 (C(2)); 138.0 (ArCH₂CH=CH₂); 151.0 (C(1)); 217.2 (2 CO). MS (FB+): 309 ([M + 1]⁺), 308 (M⁺), 252. Anal. calc. for C₁₇H₁₆FeO₂ (308.16): C 66.24, H 5.23; found: C 66.06, H 5.31.

 $[\eta^2-(2-Allylbenzyl)]$ carbonyl $(\eta^5-cyclopentadienyl)$ iron (13). A soln. of 4 (150 mg, 0.49 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (19 ml) was photolyzed at 20° for 7 min. The solvent was removed. The brown residue was diluted with pentane/Et₂O 2:1 (50 ml), filtered, and purified by chromatography on aluminium oxide (pentane). The orange band was collected. Removal of the solvent gave 130 mg (95%) of 13 as red crystals. M.p. 90°. IR (KBr): 1947. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz; C₆D₆): 1.31 (s, J = 13.1, ArCH₂H_β-CH=CH_EH_Z); 1.66 (d, J = 8.2, Fe-CH₂H_β-Ar); 2.69 (dd, J = 14.8, 4.1, ArCH₂H_β-CH=CH_EH_Z); 2.78 (d, J = 8.2, FeCH₂H_β-Ar); 3.00 (d, J = 8.1, ArCH₂H_β-CH=CH_EH_Z); 3.22 (dd, J = 14.8, 4.2, ArCH₂H_β-CH=CH_EH_Z); 3.95 (s, C₅H₅); 4.48 (dddd, J = 13.1, 8.1, 4.2, 4.1, ArCH₂H_β-CH=CH_EH_Z); 6.80-7.25 (m, Ar). ¹³C-NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl₃): 1.0 (FeCH₂Ar); 5.5 (ArCH₂CH=CH₂); 37.4 (ArCH₂CH=CH₂); 34.0 (ArCH₂CH=CH₂); 37.9 (ArCH₂CH=CH₂); 84.8 (C₅H₅); 122.5 (C(5)); 124.2 (C(4)); 126.2 (C(6)); 127.8 (C(3)); 138.0 (C(2)); 150.1 (C(1)); 224.8 (CO). MS (FB+): 280 (M⁺), 252. Anal. calc. for C₁₆H₁₆FeO (280.06): C 68.60, H 5.76; found: C 68.32, H 5.48.

 $Carbonyl(\eta^5-cyclopentadienyl)\{\eta^3-[3-(2-methylphenyl)alkyl]\}$ iron (17). A soln. of 13 (5 mg, 0.02 mmol) in C_6D_6 (0.7 ml) was irradiated with a sunlamp at 50°. After 30, 60, and 120 s, ¹H-NMR-spectra were recorded. The signals of 13 decreased, while the signals of 17 increased in intensity. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz; C_6D_6): Table 2.

Photolysis of 4 *at* 20° *in Pentane*. 1,2-Bis(2-allylphenyl)ethane (7). A soln. of 4 (200 mg, 0.65 mmol) in pentane (30 ml) was irradiated. After 8 h, the solvent was removed and the residue purified by chromatography on aluminium oxide (pentane). This gave 135 mg (80%) of 7 as a colorless oil. 1 H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): 2.88 (s, ArC H_2 C H_2 Ar); 3.39 (d, J = 6.3, 2 ArC H_2 CH=CH $_E$ H $_Z$); 4.99 (br. dq, J = 17.1, 2 ArC H_2 CH=CH $_E$ H $_Z$); 5.06 (br. d, J = 10.1, 2 ArC H_2 CH=CH $_E$ H $_Z$); 5.97 (ddt, J = 17.1, 10.1, 6.3, 2 ArC H_2 CH=CH $_E$ H $_Z$); 7.10−7.35 (m, 2 Ar). 13 C-NMR (101 MHz; CDCl₃): 34.2 (2 ArC H_2 CH=CH $_2$); 37.0 (ArC H_2 C H_2 CH $_2$ CH; 115.8 (2 ArC H_2 CH=CH $_2$); 126.3 (2C(5)); 126.5 (2C(4)); 129.3 (2C(6)); 129.7 (2C(3)); 137.3 (2 ArC H_2 CH=CH $_2$); 137.6 (2C(1)); 140.0 (2C(2)). MS: calc. for C $_{20}$ H $_{22}$: 262.1722; found: 262.1739.

Photolysis of 4 at 20° in the Presence of O_2 . 2-Allylbenzaldehyde (15), 2-Allylbenzyl Alcohol (16). Dry O_2 was bubbled through a soln. of 4 (200 mg, 0.65 mmol) in benzene (20 ml), while the soln. was irradiated for 6 h at 20°. The solvent was removed and the residue purified by chromatography on aluminium oxide (pentane/Et₂O 10:1) to yield 80 mg (60%) of 15 and 16 in a 2:1 ratio.

Data of 15 [7]: 1 H-NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): 3.83 (d, J = 6.0, ArCH₂CH=CH $_{E}$ H $_{Z}$); 5.00 (dd, J = 17.1, 1.5, ArCH $_{2}$ CH=CH $_{E}$ H $_{Z}$); 5.10 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.5, ArCH $_{2}$ CH=CH $_{E}$ H $_{Z}$); 6.04 (br. ddt, J = 17.0, 10.0, 6.2, ArCH $_{2}$ CH=CH $_{E}$ H $_{Z}$); 7.40–7.86 (m, Ar); 10.27 (s, ArCH=O). GC/MS: 146 (m⁺), 145, 131, 118.

Data of 16: [3]. 1 H-NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): 1.59 (s, ArCH₂OH); 3.41 (dt, J = 6.2, 1.6, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 4.78 (s, ArCH₂OH); 5.03 (dt, J = 17.0, 1.6, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 5.10 (dt, J = 10.0, 1.6, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 6.03 (br. ddt, J = 17.0, 10.0, 6.2, ArCH₂CH=CH_EH_Z); 7.22–7.43 (m, Ar). GC/MS: 148 (M^{+}), 131, 130, 115.

Photolysis of 4 at 67° in THF. 2-Methylidene (20) [8], 1-Methyl-2-(prop-2-enyl)benzene (11) [9], and 1-Methyl-2-(prop-1-enyl)benzene (12) [9]. A soln. of 4 (300 mg, 0.97 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was irradiated at 67° for 12 h. The solvent was removed and the residue purified by chromatography on silica gel (pentane). A mixture of 105 mg (82%) 20, 11, and 12 was isolated in a 1:11:89 ratio. Compound 20 was synthesized independently [8].

Data of **20**: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): 2.14 (s, CH₃); 3.28 (br. s, ArCH₂); 6.47 (br. s, CH=C); 7.10–7.40 (m, Ar). EI-MS: 130 (M^+), 129, 115.

Data of 11: 1 H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): 2.28 (s, CH₃); 3.36 (dt, J = 6.4, 1.6, ArCH₂CH=CH_ZH_E); 4.99 (dq, J = 17.1, 1.7, ArCH₂CH=CH_ZH_E); 5.05 (dq, J = 10.1, 1.7, ArCH₂CH=CH_ZH_E); 5.95 (ddt, J = 17.1, 10.1, 6.4, ArCH₂CH=CH_ZH_E); 7.10–7.40 (m, Ar). EI-MS: 132 (M^{+}), 117, 115, 91.

Data of 12: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): 1.90 (dd, J = 6.6, 1.6, ArCH=CHCH₃); 2.32 (s, ArCH₃); 6.10 (dq, J = 15.7, 6.6, ArCH=CH-CH₃); 6.59 (dq, J = 15.6, 1.6, ArCH=CHCH₃); 7.10–7.40 (m, Ar). EI-MS: 132 (M⁺), 117, 115, 91.

Photolysis of **4** at 67° in the Presence of CH_3OD 1-Methyl-2-($[1-^2H_1]$ prop-2-enyl)benzene (**11D**) and 1-Methyl-2-($[3-^2H_1]$ prop-1-enyl)benzene (**12D**). A soln. of **4** (20 mg, 0.065 mmol) in THF (5 ml) and CH_3OD (0.5 ml) was irradiated at 67° for 12 h. The solvent was removed and the residue purified by chromatography on silica gel (pentane). A mixture of 7 mg (90%) of **11D** and **12D** was isolated in a 1;7 ratio.

Data of 11D: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): 2.29 (s, ArCH₃); 3.39 (dtt, J = 6.4, 2.0, 1.7, ArCHD-CH=CH_ZH_E); 4.99 (br. d, J = 17.2, ArCH₂CH=CH_ZH_E); 5.05 (br. d, J = 10.3, ArCH₂CH=CH_ZH_E); 5.95 (m, ArCH₂CH=CH_ZH_E); 7.10-7.40 (m, Ar). EI-MS: 133 (M^+), 132, 118, 117, 116, 115, 92, 91.

Data of 12D: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): 1.89 (br. d, J = 6.6, ArCH=CHCH₂D); 2.33 (s, ArCH₃); 6.10 (dtt, J = 15.6, 6.6, 1.5, ArCH=CHCH₂D); 6.59 (br. dt, J = 15.6, 1.5, ArCH=CHCH₂D); 7.10–7.40 (m, Ar). EI-MS: 133 (M⁺), 132, 118, 117, 116, 115, 92, 91.

Photolysis of 4 at 67° in the Presence of Acrylonitrile. (E)-6-(2-Methylphenyl)hex-5-enenitrile (18) and (Z)-6-(2-Methylphenyl)hex-5-enenitrile (19). A soln. of 4 (200 mg, 0.65 mmol) and acrylonitrile (690 mg, 13.0 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was irradiated at 67° for 3 h. The solvent was removed and the residue purified by chromatography on aluminium oxide (pentane/Et₂O 10:1). A mixture of 97 mg (80%) 18 and 19 was isolated in a 1:6 ratio

Data of **18**: IR (Film): 2250. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): =1.87 (quint., J = 7.2, CH₂CH₂CH₂CN); 2.28 (br. q, J = 7.2, CH=CHCH₂CH₂); 2.35 (s, ArCH₃); 2.42 (t, J = 7.2, CH₂CH₂CN); 6.00 (dt, J = 15.6, 7.2, ArCH=CHCH₂); 6.68 (d, J = 15.6, ArCH=CHCH₂); 7.12–7.43 (m, Ar). ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz; CDCl₃): 16.5 (CH₂CH₂CN₂CN); 19.8 (ArCH₃); 25.1 (CH₂CH₂CN); 32.0 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CN); 119.5 (CN); 125.5, 126.6, 127.3, 129.0, 130.0, 130.3, 135.1, 136.3 (6 arom. C, CH=CH). EI-MS: 185 (M⁺), 184, 131, 129, 115, 91.

Data of 19: ¹H-NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): 1.77 (quint., J = 7.8, CH₂CH₂CN₂CN); 2.25 (s, ArCH₃); 2.30 (m, CH=CHCH₂CH₂); 2.41 (t, J = 7.8, CH₂CH₂CN); 5.67 (dt, J = 11.5, 7.3, ArCH=CHCH₂); 6.56 (br. d, J = 11.5, ArCH=CHCH₃); 7.12–7.43 (m, Ar). MS: calc. for C₁₃H₁₅N: 185.1205; found: 185.1195.

Thermolysis of (13). Under Ar, 13 (5 mg, 0.02 mmol) was heated at 250° for 3 h. After extraction with 5 ml Et₂O the products 20, 11, and 12 were detected by GC in a 7:2:1 ratio. In addition, traces of 7 were detected (<1%). The products were characterized by comparison by GC/MS and ¹H-NMR with those of authentic samples.

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